



March, 1997

Volume XXVIII, No. 21

FREE

Protests, Petitions Force Hill Club Closure

By Lysa Allman

Community involvement — and a petition with more than 600 signatures — played a major role in the closure of the Sahara Club at 444 De Haro Street. Effective March 1, Sahara owner Mufid Shehadeh is slated to vacate the premises, which neighbors and merchants on the Hill say have caused significant problems over the past four years.

Although Shehadeh has downplayed reported incidents in and around the club, which include noise, vandalism and violence, police records and neighborhood complaints have indicated otherwise. "We had been putting up with this terrible problem," explained longtime Hill resident John Tricamo. "There was a major riot Christmas night and that riot involved the use of 44 policemen who appeared with helmets and bats. It was a very, very violent and menacing situation."

Fed up with the Sahara as well as with similar problems stemming from Le Club Touche at 300 De Haro St., Tricamo and several other neighbors decided to take action. "We laid out our plan: to petition the Police Department to revoke the permits, and over the next four weeks we got over 600 signatures for our appeal. People went door to door, and some were able to involve the business people on the Hill and in the building at 444 De Haro."

The matter was settled after the involvement of several representatives of the Police Department, attorneys for both Shehadeh and the building management at 444 De Haro, as well as Supervisor Tom Ammiano. Tricamo is convinced that it was the community's protests that forced the ouster. "I think there is no question that this is why this was settled. The police did a fair job, and the political establishment downtown did very little."

"If people feel that there is a real problem in their neighborhood, they must come together, organize and seek to involve the political leaders in our community. For this situation it worked real well," Tricamo stressed.

Earlier news reports indicated that the Police Department had moved to revoke the permits that it had issued to the Club Touche, but it was not possible to confirm this at Potrero View press time.

"Friends of Esprit Park" Seeks More City Funds

-See Page 5

POTRERO HILL'S YOUNG ARTISTS



Raynard R. Cayetano, 6th Grade



Sabrina Fontenot, 6th Grade

The spotlight is on the arts at the Potrero Hill Middle School, which the San Francisco Board of Education decided Feb. 25 would become the Middle School of the Arts for the San Francisco Unified School District. This means that the school will expand its current arts program for the next three years. Present programs, which include drama, music and art, will be expanded ultimately to include dance, jazz band, strings, rock band, photography/video production, computer graphics, ceramics/sculpture and other offerings. Above: two works from the class of Potrero Hill Middle School art teacher Julia Schulman, who asked her students to outline their footprints, paint representations of their families' cultural heritage inside the print and surround the print with reflections of what their life is like in San Francisco. And on March 23 at 3 p.m. at Cafe Fanari, 2773 - 24th St., "Project 2000 Without Wars" will feature an afternoon celebration of poetry, performance and visual art from students at the Middle School, focusing on the theme of ending wars and violence for the next millennium.

Hill Boosters Oppose New Live/Work Proposal, Citing Density and Parking

By Carol Peterson

The Potrero Hill Boosters and Merchants Assn. is opposing a proposed live/work development at Mariposa and Pennsylvania Streets, charging that these units have too high a density level based on the surrounding structures and too few parking spaces per unit.

The Boosters' say their efforts have resulted in a moratorium on all live/work permits currently on file with the City Planning Department until the March 6 meeting of the City Planning Commission.

The proposed structure, a 56 unit building on the site of the recently burnt-out Fregosi Paint Warehouse, is zoned as industrial, although the other structures on this block are zoned as residential duplexes.

The change in zoning designation means that the new project does not have to conform to the higher standards of residentially-zoned properties. For example, this project only provides 31 parking spaces for 56 units. Residentially zoned areas demand one parking space for each unit.

The live/work zoning controls, included in the City's Master Plan in September

1991, were originally designed to renovate old warehouses for use by the City's artists, stressing that having a living unit in the immediate proximity to the artists' work space would foster creativity.

This live/work designation specifically states that these units be occupied by no more than four adults, with no fewer than one of these adults actively using the live/work space for an artistic activity. Because of the popularity of these units, however, the Boosters fear that this requirement is unenforceable. In the project in question, for example, the units range in area between 800 and 2,000 square feet and purchase prices for these condominiums start at \$320,000. This seems to be unreasonably pricey for most artists.

The development is proposed for a half-acre lot on which a structure 40 feet high would be built. This places the density of units per acre at 108 units per acre. If this were zoned the same as the surrounding buildings, the limits per zoning regulations would be 18 units per acre. This proposed density level is comparable to such apartment/condo developments as Golden Gateway and

Bayside Village rather than a standard live/work development.

There is also no provision for open space as the developer can build on 100% of the acreage, Booster representatives charge. The open space requirement on this particular project will be met by the roof, which towers over the existing adjoining residences, and has only limited tenant access.

Booster activists say there is a need for a buffer zone between industrial-type structures and residential properties; a requirement for a one-to-one parking ratio on new structures, no matter how they are zoned; reasonable density limits for new structures; and open space requirements that cannot simply be met by roof access.

The live/work moratorium is in effect only until March 6. The issue is expected to be on the agenda that day at the City Planning Commission, set for 1:30 p.m. in the Veteran's Building, 400 Van Ness Ave. Anyone with suggestions or who wishes to join the Booster's efforts can contact President Dick Millet at 861-0345, Vice-President Sandra Peterson at 642-8528, or Babette Drefke, member of the Citizen's Advisory Committee at 282-5919.

ITEM: THE POTRERO POLICE STATION HAS MOVED OFF THE HILL, AND SUDDENLY THE BLUE UNIFORMS HAVE ALL BUT VANISHED FROM YOU KNOW WHERE..



?? WHERE IS THE PIC? I KNEW I'D SEE IT!

SRO AT POTRERO LIBRARY



While "The Blues I'm Playing" by Langston Hughes played to a standing room only crowd at the Potrero Branch Library last month, Mayor Willie Brown chatted with Potrero Branch Library Technician Amelia Martin.

GETTING INVOLVED

ROSES (Residents of the Southeast Sector) meets the first Thursday of each month (Mar. 6) with members of the San Francisco Police Department, to discuss issues of public concern. Meetings take place at 7 p.m. in the Community College — downstairs — at 1800 Oakdale at Phelps, off Bayshore.

Potrero Hill Health Center Advisory Board meets the second Monday of the month (Mar. 10) from 6 - 7 p.m. Meetings, held at the Center at 1050 Wisconsin Street, are open to the public.

Potrero Hill Democratic Club meets the second Tuesday of each month (Mar. 11); 7:30 p.m., at the Potrero Hill Neighborhood House, 953 De Haro.

Starr King Park Board meets the second Wednesday of each month (Mar. 12) in the Potrero Hill Library meeting room at 1616 - 20th St., at 7 p.m. The public is always welcome. On the following Saturday (Mar. 15) a work party will assemble for maintenance and planting in the park behind the Starr King School.

PLAN (Potrero League of Active Neighbors) meets the third Wednesday of each month (Mar. 19) at Jackson Playground, Arkansas & Mariposa; 7 p.m.

Potrero Hill Boosters and Merchants meets on the last Tuesday of the month (Mar. 25) in the Potrero Hill Library, upstairs; 7:30 p.m.

NERT (Neighborhood Emergency Response Team) is an organization of San Francisco residents trained by the San Francisco Fire Department in basic disaster survival skills. The program is an official part of the City's Emergency Operation Plan, as a citizens' arm which can see neighborhood through the first 72 hours of a disaster when city services will be overwhelmed, and the goal is to train all San Francisco residents. Three classes for Potrero Hill residents have been completed since 1994. All graduates are asked to call the Potrero Hill Coordinator, Bob Jacklevich, at 282-4195 to find out when our next meeting will be. A new class for Potrero Hill residents will begin on Mar. 13 and will be held, on six successive weeks at Potrero Middle School, 655 De Haro.



* Masthead design by Giacomo Patri

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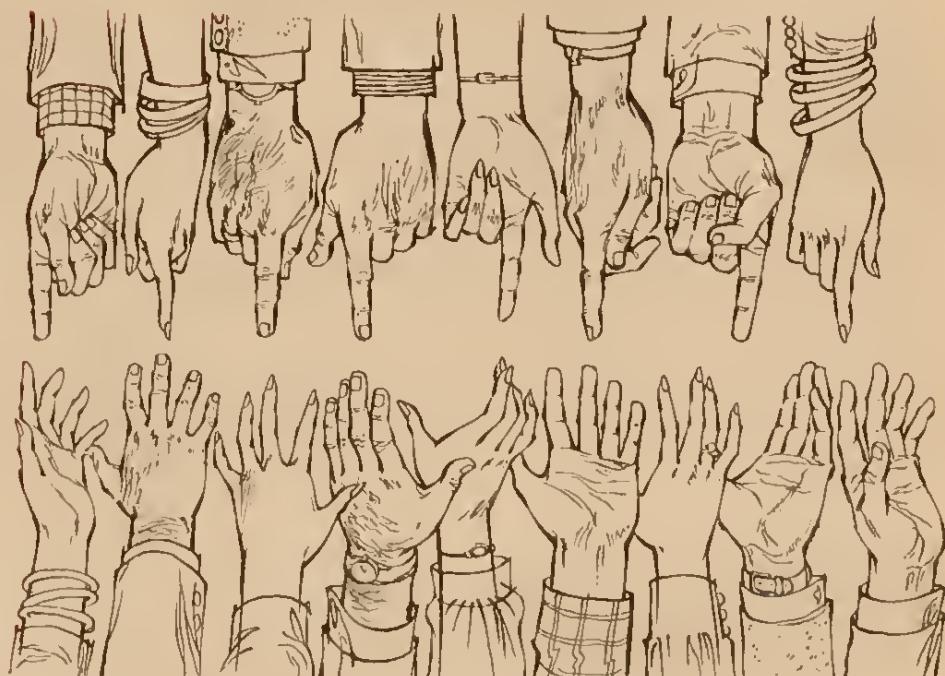
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MUNI Tix at Nabe

MUNI and BART tickets are available at the Neighborhood House, 953 De Haro St., Mondays through Fridays during office hours, 10 am-4 pm

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LIBRARY NEWS

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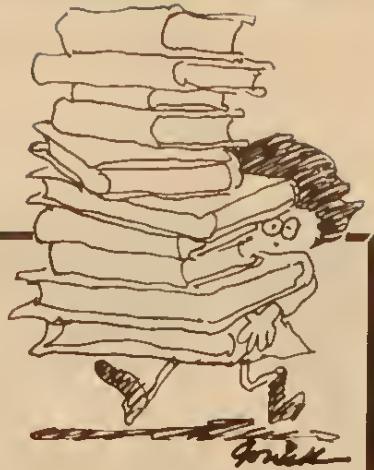
Tuesday: 10 am - 9 pm

Wednesday: 1 pm - 9 pm

Thursday: 10 am - 6 pm

Friday: 1 pm - 6 pm

Saturday: Noon - 6 pm

**GET READY, GET SET, SHOW!**

The library, the community and local artists are busy gearing up for the 42nd Annual Potrero Hill Artists Exhibition, which premieres on Saturday, April 5 and continues through Wednesday, April 30. The exhibition opens with a reception for the artists from 6:30-9:30 p.m. April 5. This year, guests will dance to the music of the popular Billy Dunn Dance Band.

BLACK HISTORY MONTH EVENT ATTRACTS SRO CROWD

Word for Word's performance of Langston Hughes' short story, "The Blues I'm Playing," on February 18, drew an audience from all across the city, including Mayor Willie Brown, and about a dozen young women from the Walden House adolescent facility in the Sunset, as well as library regulars and Word for Word fans.

Annual Black History Month celebrations at Potrero Branch owe their existence to those who fought and died to win civil and human rights in the United States and around the world. Big victories were won, but much remains to be accomplished. The Potrero Branch remains at the disposal of the community to, in the words of the famous civil rights song, "keep on walking, keep on talking, marching down freedom's road."

CHILDREN'S PROGRAMS

Infant-Toddler Lapsits are every Thursday at 10:30 a.m. Preschool Story Times are every Thursday at 4 p.m. until March 27. In April, Preschool Story Times will take place at 4 p.m. every Saturday except when other programs pre-empt them. The film "Curious George Rides a Bike" will be shown on Tuesday, March 4 at 10 a.m., and Wednesday evening, March

5, at 7 p.m. There will be no women's history program event in March due to budget constraints.

SOMEDAY SOON — BOOKS ON ORDER

As we have indicated in previous columns, book ordering has come to a standstill at the San Francisco Public Library in order to meet the requirements of the city and county's auditors and finance advisors. We have word that ordering will resume soon, but as yet no resumption date has been announced. What follows is a list of books that we plan to order when we get clearance:

* Novick, Sheldon M. "Henry James: the Young Master." Finely nuanced recounting of James' life from childhood to the cusp of his major works.

* Coover, Robert. "Briar Rose." Allegorical retelling of Sleeping Beauty. Hard to put down and impossible to paraphrase. An accessible work, confirming him as wittier, sadder, more precise and inventive than many of his contemporaries.

* Malouf, David. "The Conversations at Curlew Creek." Set in 19th-century Ireland and Australia, featuring two men at odds with the world. Breathtaking prose: daring and apt.

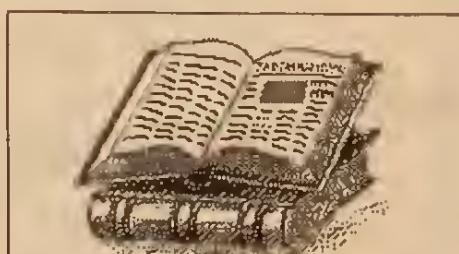
* Shakespeare, Nicholas. "The Dancer Upstairs." Taking the recent upsurge in Peru as his starting point, the author has written a gripping literary thriller, in which a detective's pursuit of a political leader expands into a many-layered tale of politics and love. (Film rights: John Malkovich)

* Duffy, Bruce. "Last Comes the Egg." The expectations raised by Duffy's first novel, "The World as I Found It," are soundly met in this coming-of-age tale set against a backdrop of a racist society, pop-culture language, and the beat of the 1960s. Critics compare it to Salinger's "Catcher in the Rye."

COMING ATTRACTIONS: BOOKS ON ORDER FOR CHILDREN

* Casely, Judith. "Slumber Party"
* Meddaugh, Susan. "Martha Blah Blah"
* Seymour, Tres. "The Smash-up Crash-up Derby"
* Wisniewski, David. "Golem"
* Vulliamy, Clara. "Ellen and Penguin and the New Baby"

Toba Singer
Branch Librarian

**THE VIEW AT THE LIBRARY**

If you are searching for a story that ran in the Potrero View a long time ago, take a look at the bound volumes at the Potrero Branch Library which contain every issue from the very first one in 1970 through December 1991. We will have more recent issues bound in the not-too-distant future, but in the meantime, check with the librarian who may have them on file.

TEN YEARS AGO

In The View.

SCHOOL CHIEF NEARS NEIGHBORS:

More than 75 parents, teachers, and concerned community members heard S.F. School Superintendent Ramon Cortines discuss school problems at a public meeting hosted by Friends of the Potrero Hill Schools at the Neighborhood House. Items of concern were: low staff morale at the Middle School, the low number of minority teachers at the school, and reports of asbestos hazards there. Speaking to the issues, Cortines outlined his plans and stated: "I'm not expecting a miracle, just a little improvement . . ."

THIRD GENERATION AT GROCERY:

After a three-month hiatus for remodeling, Chiotras Grocery on Rhode Island Street reopened with a new look and under the management of Tina Chiotras-Gordon, granddaughter of founder Chris Chiotras. The new manager took over when her father and mother, Pete and Smaro, decided to retire. The store opened in 1923 "when Rhode Island Street was still a dirt road and Potrero Hill was considered the outskirts of the City." According to Tina, the grocery was long overdue for renovations, few improvements having been made in 64 years. "New linoleum and one freezer," said Tina. "And one ice box," added her mother.

REMEMBERING SALA BURTON:

View Editor Ruth Passen reminisced about her schoolmate Sala Burton, who arrived in San Francisco in the 1930s as a refugee from Nazism in Europe and became a congresswoman representing the district that includes Potrero Hill. Sala was elected to the seat held by her husband Phil Burton until he died in 1983. Of their teen years, Passen wrote that "Sala, of course, had already experienced (as a refugee) more than any of her American teenage friends ever could. And this made her political very early in life." Sala died in February, 1987.

RECOGNITION AWARDS TO STUDENT:

Twenty Four Potrero Hill Middle School students received special recognition at an awards event held at the Nabe. More than 130 parents, teachers, administrators, school board members and neighbors attended and heard newly-appointed Supervisor Jim Gonzales and KPIX-TV news reporter Barbara Rodgers speak of their school experiences. Awards were given for academic excellence or improvement, leadership, and self motivation. Parents were also honored, being asked to "stand for applause" because "you deserve all the credit."

THIS AND THAT:

Marking its 80th anniversary, The Potrero Hill Neighborhood House announced an upcoming event-filled year including a party for 80-year-olds and a '50s dance party . . . A "very private person" dubbed the "Cat Lady," who had been feeding stray cats daily for 14 years in the China Basin area, talked to the View about her care of the wild creatures . . . Jack Jacqua, then a counselor at Potrero Hill Middle School, was awarded a special plaque for his work with young people . . . The Nabe theater was running a Telos/Julian Theatre production of Maxim Gorki's "The Lower Depths" . . . Foes of the "No Left Turn" signs at 20th and Rhode Island Sts. won a victory when the City decided to replace them with four-way stops . . . Public protests killed a proposal for an auto dismantling facility at Army (now Cesar Chavez) and Evans Sts., but the possibility was raised that it would be set up in the Pier 70 area at the foot of 20th St. . . . Winners in a city-wide Famous Women in History contest included three Potrero Hill Middle School students: Sarqueta Branch, Madelyn Wong and Chris Fields . . . Tale Spinners Theatre and Julian Theatre were preparing to present the world premiere of Stacey McNutt's historical play "Mind's Eye: Paint and Politics -- The Coit Tower Murals and the '34 Strike" . . . From the classified ads: "GET WELL!!!!!! and love to you, Moe Fershleiser. . . ."

AND 20 YEARS AGO:

The Caleb G. Clark Health Center at 1050 Wisconsin St. celebrated its first anniversary.

— Vas Arnautoff

**Potrero Hill Neighborhood House**

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Enola D. Maxwell, Executive Director

ON-GOING MEETINGS:

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Alcoholics Anonymous	Sun. 8:00 pm/Mon & Thurs, 8:30 pm
Girls/Boys Club	Mondays, 4:00 pm
Narcotics Anonymous	Wednesdays, 8:00 pm
Omega Boys Club	Tuesdays, 7:30 pm

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- MET Theatre Ensemble . . .
- Senior Nutrition Program . . .
- Social Development Center . . .
- Tutoring Program . . .
- Youth Employment MYEEP/SYETP . . .
- Job Readiness . . .
- ZAP Project (substance abuse day treatment for adolescents) . . .

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ACTION ASSEMBLY ON KEY ISSUES SET AT NEIGHBORHOOD HOUSE

An Action Assembly is slated March 15 on issues such as the right to a job, a decent income, preserving entitlements and affirmative action, quality healthcare, childcare, ending racism and discrimination.

It will be at the Potrero Hill Neighborhood House, 953 De Haro Street, 10 a.m. Call (415) 826-8080 for more information.

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Friends of Esprit Park Seek More City Money

With "seed money" amounting to \$300,000 from the City assured, "Friends of Esprit Park" is accelerating efforts to raise sufficient funds to purchase the plot from its owners, Esprit de Corp.

The park at the eastern foot of Potrero Hill was built in 1982 by the clothing manufacturer's previous owners. The present management of the firm has not yet made a decision as to the disposition of the property, which they contend is worth \$3.2 to \$4 million. But park advocates fear that the site at Minnesota Street between 19th and 20th Streets could wind up in the hands of developers who would tear out the greenery.

The "Friends" have had a favorable response from the National Trust for

Public Land to their request for help. The Trust does not donate money but offers help in fund raising efforts and publicity. Private foundations are also being asked for help.

"Friends" organizer Andrew Detsch, the landscape architect who designed the park, asks interested citizens to help out.

The "Friends" are also soliciting support to urge Mayor Willie Brown and the Board of Supervisors to help fund the park purchase.

In addition, tax-deductible donations and offers of support can be made to: Friends of Esprit Park, 970 Tennessee St., San Francisco, 94107-3012. The telephone there is 641-7884.



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EASTER
March 30

How You Can Help Stop The Deluge of Junk Mail

Most of us look forward to the day's delivery of mail. After all, next to telephone, the mail is probably our most common link to family and friends. But so often when the day's stack of mail does arrive, it's filled with subscription offers, ads that sell everything from art to zoo memberships, sweepstakes, pleas for money and other "junk" mail. Letters from family and friends are often buried in this blizzard of bulk mail. Statistically, your household is now more likely to receive junk mail than to have a working toilet.

Even worse, a significant portion of this mail doesn't even reach its intended recipients. Every year, we cut down more than 15 million trees to produce 1.8 billion pounds of **undeliverable** junk mail.

Unfortunately a very small percentage of junk mail is printed on recycled paper, and only about 15 percent of junk mail is recycled nationwide. Junk mail uses up more of our dwindling landfill space than disposable diapers and polystyrene foam products combined!

So what can you do to reduce the burden junk mail places on our landfills? Well, first of all, you can ask to receive less direct mail. Since 1971, the Direct Marketing Association (DMA) the trade association for direct mailers, has opened a "Mail Preference Service" containing the names of individuals who do not wish to receive direct mail. Mailers who are members of the DMA do not send mail to anyone on the list.

In order to get on the list, send your full name and address to the Mail Pre-

ference Service, c/o Direct Marketing Association, P. O. Box 9008, Farmingdale, NY 11735-9008. Your name will stay on this list for five calendar years. At the end of that time, your name will automatically go off the list (on January 1) unless you write them again and ask them to include your name for an additional five years. The list now contains the names of 3.5 million people.

Being on the list won't automatically end all your direct mail tomorrow. It takes several months for your name to work its way through the system, and not every mailer uses the Mail Preference Service. Being on the list will, however, significantly reduce the volume of direct mail you receive.

Secondly, recycle your junk mail. Although junk mail is accepted for recycling in both the curbside and apartment bin recycling programs, San Francisco residents recycle less than half of it.

And after you reduce the amount of junk mail you receive (and recycle the rest), there's also a way to get rid of those annoying junk phone calls from companies who always call just as you're sitting down to dinner. Just write to the Telephone Preference Service, c/o Direct Marketing Association, P. O. Box 9014, Farmingdale, NY 11735-9014.

Finally here's a waste tip for the month. If you are a senior citizen or disabled, the City offers free pick-up service for leftover hazardous waste, such as paint, pesticides, batteries, etc. Call 1-800-897-3088 to set up an appointment.

RECYCLING HITS RECORD TOTAL LAST YEAR IN SAN FRANCISCO

The volume of recyclable materials collected through San Francisco's curbside and apartment recycling programs rose eighteen percent last year — making 1996 a record year for recycling. Residents recycled more than 111 million pounds of paper, glass, aluminum, steel and plastics — up almost 17 million pounds from 1995. The average household recycled more than 340 pounds of recyclables.

Citywide participation was bolstered by special recycling campaigns in fifteen neighborhood. In a spring campaign in four neighborhood, recycling increased an average of twelve percent. A second campaign in the fall in eleven neighborhoods resulted in an increase of more than 25 percent.

To reward the neighborhood for their increased participation, the San Francisco Recycling Program is awarding

\$11,500 to neighborhood beautification projects, parks and recreation centers. In addition, the building managers of eleven apartment buildings received \$500 each for winning a competition for the best recycling improvement in apartment buildings.

Although the volume of recyclables was up significantly in 1996, revenue from the sale of recyclables was lower due to fluctuating markets. Total revenue for recyclables was \$3,000,000.

Residents can recycle 12 materials in San Francisco's curbside and apartment recycling programs: Newspaper, junk mail, flattened cardboard, dry food boxes, magazines and catalogs, paper bags, telephone books, office paper, aluminum cans and foil, tin/steel cans, glass jars and bottles and #1 and #2 plastic bottles. The curbside and apartment recycling programs are operated by Norcal Waste Systems, Inc.



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"Mother Buddha and Friends," new paintings and drawings by Tanya Joyce, will be on exhibit at Goat Hill Pizza, 300 Connecticut St. from March 2 through April 30. An artist's opening reception is scheduled at Goat Hill on Sunday, March 9, from 2-4 p.m. Phone 641-1440 for info.

A lesbian support group is now forming for survivors of adult sexual assault and rape. Call Anne at S.F. Women Against Rape at 861-2024.

Collage Gallery at 1345 - 18th St. will show "House of Cards," Tarot-inspired paintings by S.F. artist Colette Crutcher, from March 20 to 30. There's a reception on March 20 from 6 to 8 p.m. More info at 282-4401.

The S.F. Chapter of the Older Women's League holds its 10th annual "Wonderful Older Women" lunch on March 20 at Gabbiano's Restaurant, One Ferry Plaza (behind the Ferry Building), honoring five activist women: Ann Fagan Ginger, Marya Grambs, Dolores Huerta, Mimi Silbert, and Dora Sorrel, M.D. Further details at 989-4422 or 441-3921.

Last chance to see "Epic West: The Artist's View," on display through March 8 at the California Heritage Gallery, 300 DeHaro St. The show is comprised of work by contemporary plein air painters who followed the lead of epic landscapists of the 19th century in the High Sierra. Questions answered at 431-5425.

La Casa de las Madres holds its 20th Anniversary Dinner Tuesday, March 25 at 6 p.m. at the ANA Hotel, 50 Third St. Reception, history exhibit, special guest, dinner. Ticket info at 920-9764.

March is National Kidney Month, and the National Kidney Foundation of Northern California urges people to learn more about their kidneys and to get regular checkups that include tests for blood pressure, blood sugar and kidney function. The Foundation warns that kidney disease may be silent for many years until it has reached an advanced stage, so regular checkups are especially important. For more information call 349-5111.



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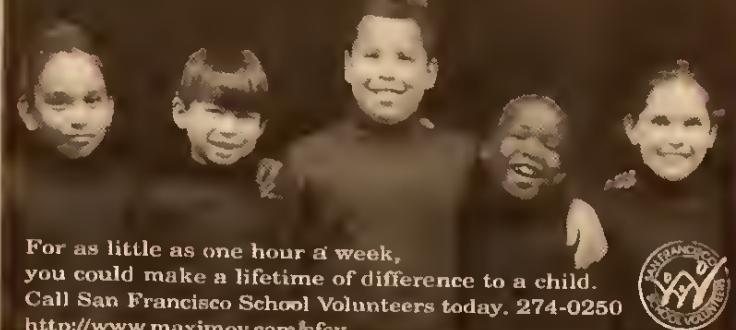
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Mark Estes Photo

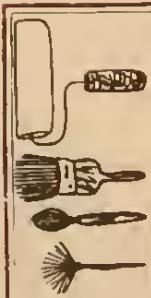
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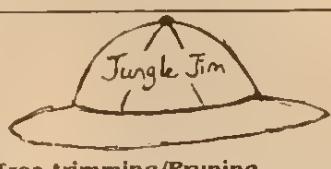


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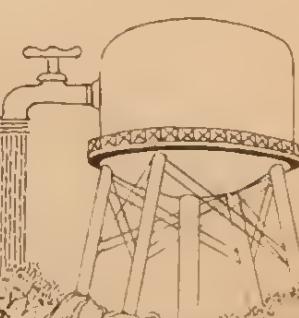
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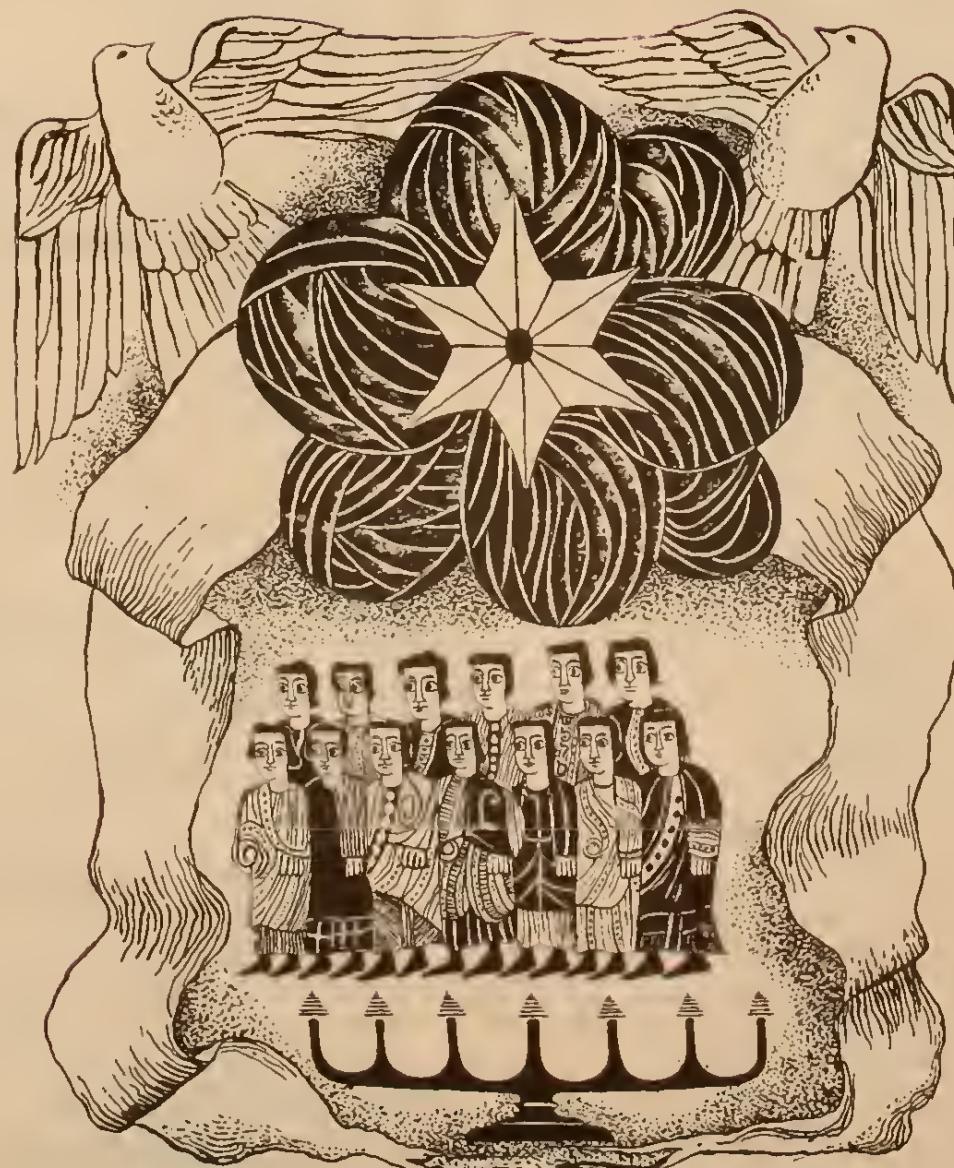
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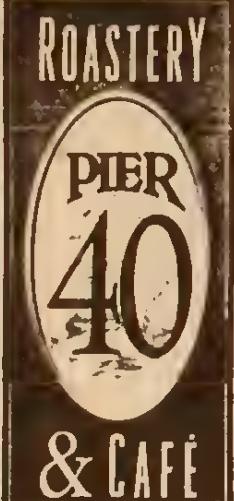
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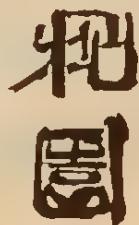
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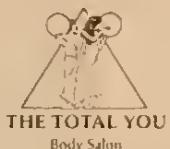
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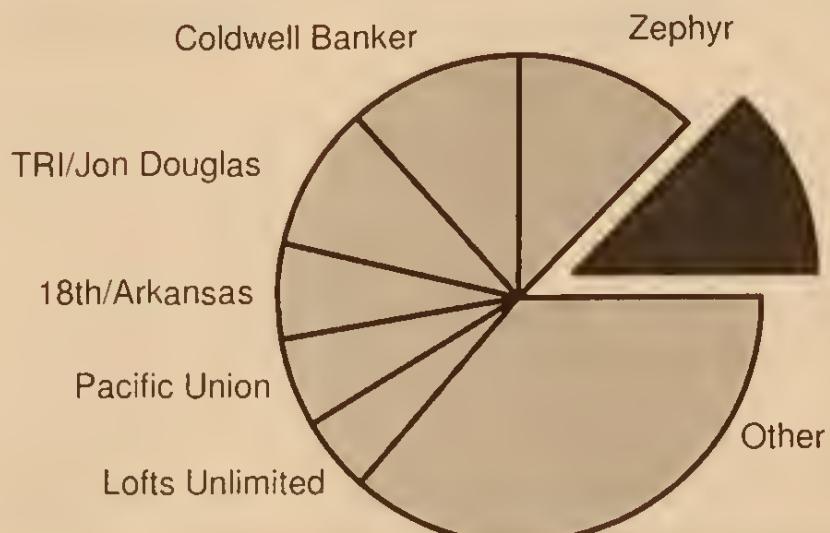
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Happy Birthday . . .

HAPPY MARCH BIRTHDAYS: Audrey Baptiste, Sally Burns, Vincent Caboara, Pat Cleaver, Nanette Dorr, Veva Edelson, Betty Garvey, Dorothy Goff, Lol Halsey, Rebecca Hostetler & Jeff Hostetler, Rosie Koopman - Rowe, Tony Kwiecien, Maribel Madrigal, Warren Maye, Katherine McNeil, Tom Murray, Steve Passin, Mark Salzburg, Sally Seymour, Lavette Virden.and a Special Welcome to Iris Tamara Roberson Feldman born Dec. 6 1996 Congratulations to Grandma Doris Walker Roberson!!!

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